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AF BRAGG NC AFVS//PCE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
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USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-ICM//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
AUSLEMA/SAT TE. MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USLOCOSGUTE NAPLES IT
USTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IC/CMI//
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 09KABUL 02055
MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR
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TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,
ASEC, UR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (JANUARY 4 - 12)
REF: A) KABUL 0214, B) KABUL 0242
1. (U) FOR ISLAMABAD AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO
DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING IN BRIEFING PRESS.

2. SUMMARY:
A. (U) TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: MULTIPLE REPORTS CLAIM
THAT MUJAHIDIN FOR SEVERAL DAYS DURING THE WEEK BLOCKED
THE LOGAR ROAD, THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLY ROUTE FROM KABUL
FOR SOVIET AND RA UNITS FIGHTING AT KHOST. MUJAHIDIN

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HAVE OVERRUN SOME NEWLY ESTABLISHED POSTS ALONG THE LOGAR ROAD. FURTHER SOUTH, SOVIET AND RA FORCES ARE CONSTRUCTING POSTS ALONG THE GARDEZ-TO-KHOST ROAD UNDER MUJAHIDIN FIRE. APPARENT SOVIET INTENT TO TRY TO HOLD THE ROAD SUGGESTS A SOVIET STRATEGY ARISING FROM POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND NOT EXCLUSIVELY MILITARY CONCERNS. MODERATE FIGHTING IS REPORTED TO THE NORTH, WEST AND SOUTH OF KABUL. MUJAHIDIN-INITIATED OPERATIONS ARE REPORTED IN GHAZNI, WARDAK, HERAT AND KANDAHAR. SOVIET FORCES HAVE LAUNCHED OPERATIONS IN GHAZNI AND NANGARHAR. SECURITY IN KABUL REMAINED TIGHT THROUGH THE WEEK THOUGH THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN THE CITY WAS DOWN SLIGHTLY. SHEVARDNADZE'S TWO-DAY VISIT TO KABUL PUBLICLY EMPHASIZED SOVIET INTENT TO BIND AFGHANISTAN TO THE SOVIET UNION THROUGH A WEB OF ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS IMPOSED ON THE CURRENT KUPRIT REGIME. SOURCES REPORT ISMAILULLAH MUSLIM RETURNED TO KABUL FROM THE SOVIET

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UNION LAST WEEK. THE IRANIAN EMBASSY CLAIMS TO HAVE OVER 152 PRISONERS IN AFGHANISTAN. ERMACORA'S LATEST VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN HAS INCLUDED EXTENSIVE TRAVEL TO REGIME-CONTROLLED AREAS AND A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS ROUND OF CALLS ON OFFICIALS OR ATTENDANCE AT REGIME-ORGANIZED MEETINGS. ERMACORA DID NOT INTEND TO VISIT ANY REGIME PRISONS OR PRISONERS. ICRC SOURCES IN KABUL HAVE CONFIRMED THAT REGIME OFFICIALS HAVE PROVIDED VERBAL

ASSURANCES REGARDING THE LAUNCHING OF ICRC VISITS TO PRISONERS FEBRUARY 2, BUT HAVE NOT BEEN WILLING TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. DESPITE SIMILAR ASSURANCES BY PRIME MINISTER ARSEYMAND IN JANUARY 1987, THE ICRC HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO MAKE PRISON VISITS ON ITS TERMS IN AFGHANISTAN.

4. (C) NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: FOREIGN MINISTER DA IS REPORTEDLY CLAIMS THE NEW REGIME WITHDRAWAL TIMEFRAME IS TEN MONTHS. SHEVARDNADZE FOUND A BADLY FACTIONALIZED PARTY DURING HIS VISIT, WITH SENIOR LEADERS PRESSING TO CONTINUE THE WAR AND OTHER SENIOR PARTY FIGURES AVOIDING PARTY AFFAIRS ALTOGETHER. DURING HIS VISIT, SHEVARDNADZE ALSO MET WITH SENIOR SOVIET MILITARY FIGURES.

B(a)5

5. A NEW SOVIET-BUILT REFINERY IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF HAS BEGUN OPERATION. RA-VIETNAMESE AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGES OF DELEGATIONS AND VIETNAMESE TRAINING OF RDPA AND MILITARY CADRE SUGGEST A MODEST EXPANSION OF TIES. THE VIETNAMESE AND RA REPORTEDLY ALSO DISCUSSED AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

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3. (U) BAGHDAD CITY DEVELOPMENTS: WHILE SECURITY IN BAGHDAD REMAINED TIGHT, AS EVIDENCED BY ROVING ARMOR

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
INFO AFGHAN AMB COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI/NDL
USIA WASHDC 2088
DIA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CG ERADCOM AFWS//FOE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAFEUR HEIDELBERG GE
USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCC
USAFE CHIEF GE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
USEUCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//
USEUCOM COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
USCINCSOUTH/347 TF, MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USCINCSOUTH MARDEL FL
DIA INTEL CPC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IC/CMI//
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 29 KABUL 22265
ADDITIONAL ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR
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FOR A-DAY

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ASEC, UR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (JANUARY 4 - 10)
PATROLS AND AGGRESSIVE PA SECURITY CHECKPOINTS, COMMON
THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL, SECURITY-RELATED INCIDENTS WERE
DOWN SOMEWHAT FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE CITY WAS
ROCKETED ON FIVE OCCASIONS; THREE SERIOUS INCIDENTS OF

GUNFIRE AND TWO UNEXPLAINED EXPLOSIONS WERE REPORTED IN
THE CITY. IN A PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED INCIDENT, TWO
PEOPLE WERE SHOT AND KILLED IN WAZIR AKBAR KHAN. A MAN
WAS DISCOVERED DECAPITATED IN WAZIRABAD DURING THE
WEEK. THE ARRIVAL OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER

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[illegible] (JANUARY 4) PROMPTED EXTENSIVE SOVIET [illegible] MEASURES INCLUDING AN AERIAL ESCORT ON ARRIVAL [illegible] DEPARTURE COMPRISING EIGHT HELICOPTERS AND SEVERAL [illegible]-23'S WHICH LAUNCHED PARACHUTE FLARES NORTH AND SOUTH [illegible] THE CITY. CITY STREETS WERE BLOCKED OFF BY SOVIET [illegible] VEHICLES AS THE MOTORCADE, WHICH INCLUDED A [illegible] BUS, SPED FROM THE AIRPORT. SOVIET ARMOR [illegible] TO THE KARTE PARWAN AREA FIVE HOURS BEFORE [illegible]'S ARRIVAL WITH BMP'S AND BTR'S POSITIONED [illegible] THE MAIN ROAD AT 200 METER INTERVALS. DIPLOMATS [illegible] REPORTED THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS:

-- JANUARY 10: AT 2225, DIPLOMATS HEARD SMALL ARMS FIRE [illegible] KARTE PARWAN AND AT 2145, TWO EXPLOSIONS IN THE CITY [illegible].

-- JANUARY [illegible]: FROM BEFORE MIDNIGHT TO THE PRE-DAWN HOURS, RA [illegible]'S WERE IN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AT THE SOUTHERN TERMINUS OF THE SALANG ROAD AND AT THE

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[illegible] OF THE SALANG ROAD. RA SECURITY [illegible] WERE VERY AGGRESSIVE HALTING VEHICLES AT [illegible]. SOVIET ARMOR WAS DEPLOYED OVERNIGHT IN KARTE PARWAN.

-- JANUARY 1[illegible]: AT 0232, THREE LARGE EXPLOSIONS, APPARENTLY CAUSED BY INCOMING ROCKETS WERE HEARD IN [illegible]. AT 0347, TWO MORE EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD IN THE SAME AREA.

-- JANUARY 7: AT 2345, A DIPLOMAT REPORTS FIVE OR SIX ROCKETS STRUCK NORTHERN KABUL. SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS HEARD IMMEDIATELY AFTER.

-- JANUARY 8: MACHINE GUN AND LARGER WEAPONS FIRE WAS HEARD IN NORTH KABUL AFTER MIDNIGHT. AT 0235, SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS HEARD IN KARTE PARWAN.

-- JANUARY 9: BETWEEN 0343 AND 0347, DIPLOMATS REPORT THREE EXPLOSIONS PROBABLY CAUSED BY INCOMING ROCKETS INTO NORTH KABUL. AT 1537, TWO EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD IN [illegible] KAB.

-- JANUARY 4: AT APPROXIMATELY 1445, TWO BLASTS WERE HEARD AND SEEN IN CENTRAL KABUL. ONE WAS ON THE EAST SIDE OF [illegible]-I-ASMAI ("TELEVISION HILL"), THE OTHER BELOW THE HILL. FLAMES WERE SEEN FOR SEVERAL MINUTES SECDTINC FROM THE SIDE OF THE UPPER EXPLOSION. SMOKE FROM THE FIRES FORMED A DOME OVER THE CITY CENTER. REPORTS VARY AS TO THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSIONS, WITH SOME INDICATING THEY WERE CAUSED BY TWO INCOMING ROCKETS AND ANOTHER, TWO BOMBS. MULTIPLE REPORTS CLAIM SEVERAL HOUSES DESTROYED AND SEVERAL PEOPLE KILLED.

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USIA WASHDC 2263
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
FT BRAGG NC AFWS//POE//SE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
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USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
AUCKLAND/347 IFW MCCOY AFB GA//IN//
USLOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO/CMI//
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 09 KABUL 00255
MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR
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ASEC, UR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (JANUARY 4 - 10)
-- PROVINCE DEVELOPMENTS --
1. (C) KABUL PROVINCE: FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE
SHOMALI PROMPTING A LIMITED MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES INTO
KABUL. MUJAHIDIN CONTINUE TO ATTACK RA POSITIONS IN THE

PASHMAN AREA, WEST OF KABUL. FIGHTING NEAR THE SOVIET
40TH ARMY HEADQUARTERS SOUTH OF KABUL, REPORTEDLY TOOK
FIVE LIVES.

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FAMILIES IN THE AREA FLED THE FIGHTING TO KABUL. ON JANUARY 5, A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED AN RA POST IN SHAHAR DARREH (34'41N 69 01"E) KILLING TWO REGIME TROOPS. AFGHANS REPORT CHRONIC FIGHTING IN THE SHAHAR DARREH AND GOL DARREH (34'20"N 69'22"E) AREAS.

B. KABUL WEST: ON JANUARY 3, MUJAHIDIN OVERRAN FOUR POSTS IN THE PAGHMAN AREA: AT BALADAN, BERTUT, NEAR PAGHMAN TOWN AND AT AN UNKNOWN LOCATION. A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS ARTILLERY TO THE NORTH OF KARGHA LAKE AND HEAVY SMALL ARMS FIRE TO THE WEST FROM 0900 TO 1000.

C. KABUL SOUTH: ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 6, FIGHTING ERUPTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOVIET 40TH ARMY HEADQUARTERS SOUTH OF DARULAMAN. ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN RESIDENT OF THE AREA, FIVE PERSONS WERE KILLED.

D. (U) PAKTIA-LOGAR: TWO AFGHANS REPORT MUJAHIDIN CUT THE LOGAR ROAD, THE MAIN SUPPLY ROUTE FOR SOVIET AND RA FORCES FIGHTING IN THE KHOST-GARDEZ AREA FOR SEVERAL DAYS DURING THE WEEK. ONE SOURCE PLACES THE BLOCK AT SAIDKHEL, NEAR SHARTH (33'56"N 69'23"E). REPORTEDLY THE MUJAHIDIN TOOK POSITIONS NEAR OR ON THE ROAD JANUARY 7 AND HAVE PREVENTED CONVOYS FROM USING THE ROAD SINCE. NO CONVOYS HAVE BEEN SEEN TO MOVE SOUTH ON THE ROAD FROM JANUARY 5 TO JANUARY 10, A BREAK IN A PATTERN OF

VIRTUALLY DAILY SOVIET/RA CONVOY ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES IN RECENT WEEKS. (A SOVIET ARMORED CONVOY MOVED SOUTH ON THE ROAD AT 0852, JANUARY 11.) ALSO LENDING CREDENCE TO THE REPORTED TEMPORARY CUT OF THE ROAD, CONVOY TRAFFIC DURING THE AREA WAS HEAVY ON THE ONLY ALTERNATE ROUTE TO GARDEZ --SOUTH ON THE KABUL-TO-KANDAHAR ROUTE TO GHAZNI THEN EAST TO GARDEZ. THE ROUTE IS MUCH LONGER AND TRAVERSES WARDAK, AN AREA OF FREQUENT MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITY. (SEE PARA 6 FOR REPORT OF A JANUARY 7 CONVOY ATTACK ON THIS ROUTE.) AMONG THE CONVOYS MOVING ON THE KABUL-TO-KANDAHAR ROAD, ONE SOVIET CONVOY WAS OBSERVED DEPARTING UNUSUALLY EARLY IN THE MORNING (0230) JANUARY 10, AND ANOTHER WAS OBSERVED RETURNING AFTER DARK (1900) JANUARY 6, SUGGESTING LONG TRANSITS FOR BOTH CONVOYS -- POSSIBLY TO PAKTIA. A THIRD AFGHAN ALSO REPORTS THAT THE REGIME IS USING THE KABUL-TO-KANDAHAR ROUTE TO TRANSPORT TROOPS AND SUPPLIES. THIS SOURCE CLAIMS THE REGIME IS MEETING LITTLE RESISTANCE ON THE GHAZNI-TO-PAKTIA PORTION OF THE ROUTE. REFTELS AND PREVIOUS MESSAGES REPORTED LARGE NUMBERS OF MUJAHIDIN MOVING INTO LOGAR TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE LOGAR ROAD. IN SPECIFIC LOGAR ACTION, A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED TWO RA POSTS NEAR SHAIDON, NORTH OF

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.UL-I-ALAM. IN THE ATTACKS, 20 REGIME TROOPS WERE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 09 KABUL 00285
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ACOS, UR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (JANUARY 4 - 10)
ILLEG. THE ATTACKING MUJAHEDIN LOST ONE KILLED. BOTH
POSTS WERE AMONG THOSE THE SOVIETS AND REGIME HAVE
RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TO PROTECT THE KABUL-TO-GARDEZ
ROUTE. A SEPARATE AFGHAN NGO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE

AREA, REPORTS SOVIET AND RA FORCES HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING
TO ESTABLISH POSTS ALONG THE LOGAR ROAD BUT HAVE
ENCOUNTERED STRONG MUJAHEDIN RESISTANCE. A SEPARATE
SOURCE CLAIMS THE SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES HAVE
SUCCEEDED IN CONSTRUCTING 12 POSTS AT TEN KMS INTERVALS

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FROM GARDEZ TO KHOST. THE CONSTRUCTION WORK HAS PROCEEDED UNDER HARASSING MUJAHIDIN FIRE. MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY ALSO ARE ATTACKING SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH POSTS ON HIGH GROUND. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE PAKTIA FIGHTING, AN AFGHAN REPORTS 72-82 REGIME WOUNDED WERE FLOWN BACK TO KABUL ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 3. ANOTHER REPORT CLAIMS THAT SOVIET FORCES IN THE PAKTIA FIGHTING NUMBER 20,000. REPORTS FROM KHOST ITSELF ARE SCANT. ONE WELL-SOURCED REPORT CLAIMS ADDITIONAL MUJAHIDIN ARE ENTERING THE BATTLE TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE SOVIET FORCES ATTEMPTING TO KEEP THE GARDEZ-TO-KHOST ROAD OPEN. (COMMENT: IF TRUE, REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS AND REGIME FORCES ARE ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH POSTS ALONG THE GARDEZ TO KHOST ROAD SUGGEST THAT THE SOVIETS INTEND TO DEFEND THE ROUTE THROUGH THE WINTER. THIS WILL BE A COSTLY AND POSSIBLY RISKY ENTERPRISE, AND APPEARS TO MOTIVATED BY PERCEIVED POLITICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. THE SOVIETS AND REGIME FORCES IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS IN THE PAST,

HAVE FOUGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH TO BESIEGED GARRISONS TO RESUPPLY THEM FOR WINTER, THEN RETREATED UNTIL THE SPRING. APPARENT SOVIET INTENT TO KEEP THE LAND ROUTE TO KHOST OPEN MAY REFLECT SOVIET DETERMINATION NOT TO

ALLOW THE MUJAHIDIN TO SCORE A PROPAGANDA COUP IN ADVANCE OF THE UPCOMING GENEVA PROXIMITY TALKS BY CLOSING THE ROUTE ONCE AGAIN. END COMMENT)

6. (C) GHAZNI: ACCORDING TO TRAVELLERS, THE KABUL TO KANDAHAR ROAD WAS CLOSED JANUARY 3 AND 4 AT QARABAGH BECAUSE OF SOVIET OPERATIONS IN THE AREA THAT INCLUDED HEAVY BOMBING. AN AFGHAN REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED TWO REGIME POSTS AT BANDE SARDEH (33°17"N 68°38"E).

7. (C) KANDAHAR: TRAVELLERS FROM KANDAHAR REPORT CURRENT HEAVY BOMBING OF THE MAHALAJAT AREA BY AIRCRAFT FLYING AT VERY HIGH ALTITUDE, OFTEN AT NIGHT. KANDAHARIS REPORT THAT THERE IS FIGHTING INSIDE KANDAHAR CITY MOST NIGHTS AND THAT FIGHTING OUTSIDE THE CITY CAN BE HEARD DAILY. GOODS CONTINUE TO FLOW INTO KANDAHAR VIA THE SPIN BULDAK ROAD AND FOOD IS GENERALLY AVAILABLE ALTHOUGH EXPENSIVE. MUTTON COSTS 450 AFS PER KG (COMPARED WITH 375 AFS PER KG IN KABUL), BEEF SELLS AT 250 AFS PER KG (200 AFS PER KG IN KABUL), AND FLOUR SELLS AT 38 AFS PER KG (35 AFS PER KG IN KABUL). THE KABUL-TO-KANDAHAR ROAD REMAINS DANGEROUS FOR SOVIET AND REGIME CONVOYS WITH THE MOST DIFFICULT PORTION IN WARDAK PROVINCE. SINCE LATE DECEMBER MUJAHIDIN HAVE OVERRUN APPROXIMATELY SIX REGIME POSTS IN THE KANDAHAR OUTER

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DEFENSE RING. ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 5, MUJAHIDIN AND SOVIET FORCES FOUGHT A MAJOR BATTLE AT ZALAKEAN (31°32"N 65°22"E) IN WHICH SOVIET FORCES LOST 20 VEHICLES. RECENT ARRIVALS FROM KANDAHAR CONFIRM EARLIER REPORTS

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DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
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USIOCCSOUTH NAPLES IT
DETO INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO/CMI//
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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (JANUARY 4 - 10)
THAT BECAUSE OF GROWING SECURITY PROBLEMS AND REGIME
CORRUPTION THAT HAS BECOME OPPRESSIVE, MANY BUSINESSMEN
ARE TRANSFERRING THEIR OPERATIONS TO KABUL. ONE OF THE

PROBLEMS CONTINUING TO CONCERN ALL KANDAHAR RESIDENTS
ARE THE ACTIONS OF THE JAUZJANI (UZBEK) TROOPS (SEE
REPTEL) WHICH HAVE BRUTALIZED THE KANDAHAR POPULATION
SINCE THEIR DEPLOYMENT TO THE CITY SIX MONTHS AGO.
RECENT TRAVELLERS FROM KANDAHAR HOWEVER, CONTEND THAT

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MUJAHIDIN IN THE AREA ARE SHOWING GREATER COOPERATION THAN IN THE PAST, EVEN FORMING JOINT UNITS COMPRISING TROOPS OF VARIOUS GROUPS.

9. (U) WARDAK: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT ON JANUARY 1, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED FIVE POSTS IN THE SAYYEDABAD (33°39"N 68°43"E) AREA KILLING SIX DRA TROOPS, WOUNDING AND CAPTURING TWO OTHERS AND KILLING ONE OFFICER. ON JANUARY 7, MUJAHIDIN AMBUSHED A SOVIET CONVOY AT KOTAL TAKHT (34-N 68-E, A PASS ON THE KABUL-TO-KANDAHAR ROAD, 40 KMS SOUTHWEST OF KABUL).

10. (U) NANGARHAR: SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES HAVE ESTABLISHED SEVERAL POSTS AT GARDAY GHOUS (TEN MINUTES DRIVE WEST OF TORKHAM). DURING THE WEEK, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED TWO OF THESE POSTS KILLING THREE REGIME TROOPS AND DESTROYING A JEEP. SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN SHELLING SUSPECTED MUJAHIDIN CONCENTRATIONS IN THE SPIN GHAR AREA (33°56"N 70°25"E)

SINCE EARLY JANUARY. CIVILIAN HOMES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND SOME CIVILIANS WOUNDED OR KILLED.

12. (U) HERAT: A DIPLOMAT OF UNDETERMINED RELIABILITY REPORTS THAT FIGHTING IS UNDERWAY TO THE WEST OF HERAT CITY. ON JANUARY 2, ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN OVERRAN THREE POSTS IN THE HERAT OUTER DEFENSE RING, KILLING THREE REGIME TROOPS.

11. (U) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. SHEVARDNADZE VISITS KABUL: IN AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT, SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE VISITED KABUL, JANUARY 4-5. DESPITE A RELATIVELY BRIEF STAY IN KABUL, SHEVARDNADZE MET INDIVIDUALLY WITH MANY OF THE PARTY ELITE. THE SEPARATE MEETINGS IMPLIED INDIVIDUAL MESSAGES TO EACH PARTY FIGURE, PRESUMABLY TO EMPHASIZE UNITY AND POSSIBLY TO CONVEY A MOSCOW DIRECTION. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE DISPATCH OF A SENIOR SOVIET PARTY AND STATE FIGURE MAY HAVE BEEN NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE SOVIET MESSAGE WAS PROPERLY RECEIVED. IN A DEPARTURE INTERVIEW, SHEVARDNADZE DEVOTED MUCH ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL ENTITIES IN AFGHANISTAN AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. AS SECURITY HAS LONG PRECLUDED IMPLEMENTATION OF MOST OF THESE AGREEMENTS, HIS FOCUS ON THEM NOW SUGGESTS THEY MAY HAVE SOME ROLE IN SOVIET STRATEGY IN THE LEAD-UP TO THE NEXT ROUND OF GENEVA PROXIMITY TALKS.

B. ESMATULLAH MUSLIM: TURKMAN MUJAHIDIN COMMANDER ESMATULLAH MUSLIM, WOUNDED IN A NOVEMBER 30 SHOOTOUT IN KABUL, REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO KABUL FROM MOSCOW DURING

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ASEC, UR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (JANUARY 4 - 10)
THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY.
C. TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN: AN AFGHAN WITH GOOD CONTACTS
REPORTS THAT REGIME AND PARTY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN
INSTRUCTED TO AVOID DRINKING AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS AND TO

BE MORE CLOSED MOUTH ABOUT REGIME AND PARTY PROBLEMS.
THE CAMPAIGN REPORTEDLY IS NOT MEETING WITH MUCH SUCCESS.
D. CORRUPTION AT THE TRADE BANK: AFGHANS REPORT STAFF
AT THE AFGHAN TRADE BANK ARE INCREASINGLY CORRUPT AND

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RECENTLY VISITING THE BANK NOTED, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SOVIETS IN MONEY-HANDLING AREAS OF THE BANK.

B. IRANIAN PRISONERS: THE IRANIAN EMBASSY CLAIMS THAT OVER 150 IRANIAN NATIONALS ARE HELD IN RA JAILS.

C. MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY ROLE AND POWER GROW: THE MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY, WAD, FORMERLY AND STILL GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS KHAD, REPORTEDLY IS EXPANDING STAFF AND FACILITIES FOLLOWING THE DISMISSAL OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PARYAL SUPPORTERS FROM ITS RANKS. THE MINISTRY IS DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE LARGEST IF NOT THE LARGEST MINISTRY, WITH A NETWORK OF AGENTS AND INFORMERS THAT REACHES INTO VIRTUALLY ALL REGIME OFFICES. WHEREAS SALARIES IN MOST OF THE REGIME BUREAUCRACY ARE VERY LOW, WITH EVEN DIRECTORS RECEIVING LESS THAN 12,000 AFGHANIS PER MONTH (APPROXIMATELY 50 US DOLLARS), SIMILAR

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PERSONNEL LEVELS AT WAD RECEIVE CONSIDERABLY MORE.

12. (U) SOVIETIZATION:

A. REGIME MILITARY PERSONNEL TO THE SOVIET UNION: AN AFGHAN REPORTS THAT ON JANUARY 3, APPROXIMATELY 300 SARANDOI TROOPS WENT TO TASHKENT FOR A SIX MONTH TRAINING COURSE. ON JANUARY 5, 32 RA MILITARY OFFICERS REPORTEDLY WERE SENT TO THE SOVIET UNION, REPORTEDLY FOR ADVANCED TRAINING. ALSO DURING THE WEEK, 25 WOUNDED RA OFFICERS AND NCO'S WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE SOVIET UNION AND EAST GERMANY FOR MEDICAL CARE.

B. SOVIET ADVISORS WITH TRAVELLING REGIME DELEGATIONS: MEMBERS OF A DELEGATION FROM THE RA CENTRAL BANK AND THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WHICH RECENTLY TRAVELLED TO A WORLD BANK CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON HAVE COMPLAINED TO CONTACTS THAT THEY HAD NO INDEPENDENCE BUT ONLY FOLLOWED ORDERS FROM THEIR SOVIET ADVISORS. FRUSTRATION REPORTEDLY EXTENDS TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

13. (U) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

A. THE AFGHANI CONTINUES TO WEAKEN: THE AFGHANI CONTINUED ITS SLIDE, TRADING AT 199 AFGHANIS TO THE U.S. DOLLAR ON JANUARY 12.

B. REGIME LOAN PLAN FOR ENTREPRENEURS CRITICIZED: A BUSINESSMAN COMPLAINED THAT REGIME LOANS TO ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH THE COMMERCE MINISTRY'S INVESTMENT COMMITTEE ENTAIL INTRUSIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE REGIME IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE ENTERPRISE RANGING FROM EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS TO THE MOST MUNDANE BUSINESS DECISIONS. THE REGIME NONETHELESS OFFERS SIGNIFICANT

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CI BRAGG NC AFVS//PCE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-ICM//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (JANUARY 4 - 10)
INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES TO ACCEPT LOANS AND THE STRONG
REGIME HAND IN THEIR AFFAIRS. SOME FOREIGN EQUIPMENT
PURCHASED WITH REGIME LOANS IS EXEMPT FROM CERTAIN
TARIFFS. MANY BUSINESSMEN HOWEVER, CHOOSE TO SIMPLY

BRIBE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WHO RECLASSIFY EQUIPMENT IN
LOWER TARIFF CATEGORIES, RATHER THAN SEEK REGIME LOANS.

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C. REGIME SENDS ECONOMIC MISSIONS ABROAD: A
WELL-PLACED SOURCE FAMILIAR WITH THE MINISTRY OF

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COMMERCE CLAIMS THAT DELEGATIONS OF REGIME OFFICIALS HAVE TRAVELLED TO WESTERN COUNTRIES IN RECENT MONTHS TO PROMOTE TRADE AND BUSINESS. THE DELEGATIONS, WHICH HAVE RECEIVED NO MEDIA COVERAGE, HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO CONTACT INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSES, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TRADE OFFICIALS. DELEGATIONS ARE DUE TO TRAVEL TO JAPAN, WESTERN EUROPE AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. (COMMENT: THESE TRIPS APPEAR TO BE AIMED AT INCREASING AFGHAN EXPORTS AND BOOSTING FOREIGN CURRENCY EARNINGS. GIVEN POOR SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROSPECTS APPEAR TO BE EXCEEDINGLY LIMITED. AFGHAN EXPORT PRODUCTS (RAISINS, NUTS AND SKINS) HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY UNCOMPETITIVE IN RECENT YEARS AS PRICES OF PRODUCTION HAVE RISEN AND QUALITY DROPPED. THE REGIME CONTINUES TO PLACE BUREAUCRATIC BARRIERS IN THE WAY OF BUSINESSMEN THROUGH RAMPANT CORRUPTION AND INEFFICIENCY. POOR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AND AN INADEQUATE AND GENERALLY INSECURE TRANSPORT NETWORK

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RESULT IN UNACCEPTABLE DELAYS IN SHIPMENT OF THE AFGHAN PRODUCTS.)

14. (U) ROAD SECURITY: RESIDENTS OF BAMIAN CLAIM THAT TRAVEL ON THE ROAD FROM THAT TOWN THROUGH SALANG TO KABUL IS NOW RELATIVELY EASY BUT THAT MUJAHIDIN CONTROL THE ENTIRE ROUTE IN CONTRAST WITH THE KABUL-TO-KANDAHAR ROAD. "TAXES" IMPOSED BY VARIOUS MUJAHIDIN GROUPS WHICH CONTROL DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE ROUTE ARE MODERATE.

15. (U) HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS: ICRC SOURCES IN KABUL HAVE CONFIRMED THAT WHILE REGIME OFFICIALS HAVE PROVIDED VERBAL ASSURANCES REGARDING INITIATION OF ICRC PRISON VISITS BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY, THE REGIME HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. IN JANUARY 1987, PRIME MINISTER KESHMAND PROVIDED SIMILAR VERBAL ASSURANCES PROMPTING THE ICRC TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY THAT IT WOULD SHORTLY BEGIN CARRYING OUT ITS PRISONER PROTECTION MANDATE IN AFGHANISTAN. REGIME OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, RENEGED, REFUSING TO PERMIT THE ICRC ACCESS TO PRISONERS UNDER THE CONDITIONS IT TRADITIONALLY OPERATES. ENSUING NEGOTIATIONS OVER ICRC ACCESS TO PRISONERS BROKE DOWN IN LATE SPRING, 1987.

16. (U) MEDIA:

A. MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE SHEVARDNADZE VISIT: THE JANUARY 4-6 VISIT OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE RECEIVED LITTLE MEDIA COVERAGE UNTIL AFTER HE DEPARTED KABUL. THERE WERE NO PHOTOGRAPHS OR TELEVISION COVERAGE OF HIS ARRIVAL OR MEETINGS. ON JANUARY 5, MEDIA TELEVISION NEWS SUMMARIZED HIS

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ACTIVITIES WITH A ONE SENTENCE COMMENT. HIS DEPARTURE RECEIVED HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE.

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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (JANUARY 4 - 12)
B. FRENCH JOURNALIST SENTENCED: REGIME MEDIA REPORTED
ON JANUARY 5 THAT FRENCH JOURNALIST ALAIN GUILLO WAS
SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IN PRISON, FOLLOWING A ONE-DAY
TRIAL TO WHICH CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM THE FRENCH EMBASSY

WERE NOT PERMITTED ACCESS. GUILLO WAS CONVICTED OF
ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO AFGHANISTAN AND FOR SPYING AND
SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.
C. TARGETING OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS: THE RECENT
CAPTURES AND KILLINGS OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS IN

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AFGHANISTAN WAS APPLAUDED IN A JANUARY 12 KABUL NEW TIMES COMMENTARY WHICH CLAIMED THAT MOPPING UP OPERATIONS OF THE WESTERN "SPIES AND SABOTEURS" HAS BEEN MEETING WITH SUCCESS.

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2. ERMACORA VISIT: HUMAN RIGHTS RAPPORTEUR FELIX ERMACORA WHO ARRIVED IN KABUL JANUARY 5 HAS BEEN RATHERWELL COVERED BY THE REGIME MEDIA WHICH SHOW HIM IN A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS ROUND OF MEETINGS WITH REGIME OFFICIALS AND REGIME-ORGANIZED GROUPS. ERMACORA DID NOT INTEND TO VISIT PRISONS OR ATTEMPT TO SEE PRISONERS. HE TRAVELLED WIDELY IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE REGIME INCLUDING ANDARAB, SPIN BULDAK, JALALABAD, ISLAM QALA, AND HERAT. HE VISITED HEROT IN A MOVE WHICH SHOULD HELP DEMONSTRATE THE REGIME'S CURRENT CONTROL OF THE TOWN AND THE TOWN'S AIRPORT.

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3. KABUL "GLASNOST": THE LOCAL LANGUAGE PRESS CONTINUES TO RUN CRITICAL STORIES COVERING REGIME INSTITUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY, ONE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AN ACCOUNT OF AN INVESTIGATION OF BAKERIES THAT SELL UNDER-SIZE BREAD. CRITICISM INCLUDED BOTH THE BAKERIES AND THE REGIME OFFICE CHARGED WITH MONITORING THEM. THE KABUL PRESS ALSO HAS CRITICIZED THE STATE INSTITUTION WHICH CARES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL, RETARDED AND DESTITUTE. SINCE THE LOYA JIRGA, NOVEMBER 28-30, SUCH ARTICLES AS WELL AS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CRITICAL OF REGIME OFFICIALS HAVE BECOME RELATIVELY COMMON IN THE LOCAL PRINT MEDIA.

4. KUNAR PROVINCE ATTACK: THE REGIME CLAIMED THAT MUJAHIDIN, IN EARLY JANUARY, ROCKETED NAWABAD AND SHAHR-I-JUDA, VILLAGES NEAR ASADABAD, THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL.

5. REGIME MEDIA REPEAT COVERAGE OF SURRENDERING MUJAHIDIN: A GROUP OF MUJAHIDIN WHICH ALLEGEDLY SURRENDERED IN THE QARABAGH AREA OF THE SHOMALI WAS FEATURED IN THE KABUL NEW TIMES ON DECEMBER 28, DECEMBER 30 AND JANUARY 3. WHILE THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE DIFFERENT, APPARENTLY INTENDING TO SUGGEST DIFFERENT GROUPS, INDIVIDUALS IN EACH PHOTOGRAPH COULD BE IDENTIFIED AS BEING PRESENT IN THE OTHER GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS.

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10. (C) NOT TO BE PRINTED TO PRESS:
REGIME ALTERS STAND ON WITHDRAWAL TIMEFRAME?

THE REGIME NOW PROPOSES A TEN-MONTH WITHDRAWAL TIMEFRAME.

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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (JANUARY 4 - 10)

1. PDPA FACTIONALISM: SENIOR KHALQI FIGURES GULABZOI, WAZANJAR, AND TANAI REPORTEDLY HAVE TOLD SHEVARDNADZE THEY WISH TO CONTINUE THE WAR. NUR, ZEARY, AND LAEQ REPORTEDLY ARE REMAINING ALOOF FROM PARTY AFFAIRS.

NAJIBULLAH IS ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A POLITICAL BASE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY FROM WHICH HE RECENTLY HAS DISMISSED OVER 2,000 PARCHAM SUPPORTERS.

2. SOVIET REFINERY IN OPERATION: A SOVIET-BUILT

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...ERY IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF HAS JUST BEGUN OPERATIONS.
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2. SHEVARDNADZE MEETS WITH SOVIET GENERALS: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO KABUL, SHEVARDNADZE MET WITH SOVIET GENERALS AND OTHER SENIOR SOVIET OFFICERS.

3. RA-VIETNAMESE ACCORDS: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO DRAFT TALKING POINTS PREPARED BY ..

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THE REGIME FOR TALKS WITH VIETNAMESE LEADERS IN HANOI DURING NAJIBULLAH'S LATE DECEMBER VISIT TO VIETNAM, THE RA AND VIETNAMESE HOPE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON VIETNAMESE TRAINING OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY SPECIALISTS INCLUDING POLITICAL OFFICERS FOR THE RA MILITARY AND GENERAL PARTY CADRE. THE VIETNAMESE AND RA WERE ALSO TO EXCHANGE DELEGATIONS IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND MEDICINE. THE RA WAS ALSO PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH HANOI THE CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

4. CIVIL AIR EXPANSION: TWO BRITISH LABOR MP'S (FAR LEFT) VISITING KABUL REPORTEDLY WILL PRESS THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT RESUMPTION OF BAKHTAR FLIGHTS TO LONDON.

5. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MCWILLIAMS

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